

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

With reference to the clean version of the replacement specification submitted as Appendix II to the Preliminary Amendment mailed February 3, 2006, please amend the Specification as follows:

Please REPLACE the third full paragraph on page 14 (lines 16-25) with the following replacement paragraph:

The front and the rear stops 21 are not disposed directly opposite each other, but are staggered a distance in an upward and a downward direction with respect to each other as are the front and the rear slide guides 20 in order to accommodate the stops 21 so that the handle member 3 can be molded by a pair of molds. It is possible to locate the stops 21 and slide guides [[21]] 20 symmetrically in the front and the rear direction with respect to the handle 6, though this would require slightly different molding configurations.

Please REPLACE the first full paragraph on page 15 (lines 1-22) with the following replacement paragraph:

Cutouts 22 are formed in each of the upper and the lower portion of the slide guides 20, and the operating portion 15 can be fit onto the handle 6 by engaging the front and the rear stops 21 through the cutouts 22 into the slide guides 20 one after another, using the elasticity of the operating portion 15. The control portion 23 is located between the upper and lower cutouts 22 which blocks the movement of the operating portion 15 downward by engaging the control portion 23 with the base of the stops 21, when the brush body 2 is at the first position by moving the operating portion 15 upward, and which blocks the movement of the operating portion 15 upward by engaging the control portion 23 with the base of the stops 21, when the brush body 2 is at the second position by moving the operating portion 15 downward. To move the operating portion 15 from the upper position to the lower position, or vice versa, the operating portion 15 should be forced to push upward or downward against the elasticity of the material beyond the control portion 23 to move the stops 21 to upper or lower cutouts [[21.]] 22. A position maintaining means of the interdental brush 1 is structured by the cutouts 22, control portion 23 and stops 21.